

Mr. Speaker, such moving testimonials to this great and courageous man have literally come in floods of words and tears in recent days back in Minnesota. At a memorial service last Tuesday night at St. Edward's Catholic Church in Bloomington, I was among the 1,200 mourners who attended and heard many such moving tributes. The streets and parking lot of that church were lined with many other people who could not get into the packed church. Many waved American flags of all sizes. It was very sad. And it was very uplifting.

Mr. Speaker, many people claim America has suffered from a lack of heroes in recent years. Not anymore. Not with Tom Burnett, Jr. to look up to. Like so many heroes of September 11 who gave their lives to help others, from Tom and his fellow passengers on Flight 93, to the police, rescue personnel and firefighters in New York who rushed into those doomed towers and so many others, America has real heroes to remember and to cherish. We must never forget their ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with Tom's wonderful family, his loving wife, Deena, their daughters Madison, Halley and Anna-Clair, his parents Thomas Sr. and Beverly of Bloomington, and his sisters Martha O'Brien and Mary Margaret Burnett.

May God bless Tom Burnett and his family. And may God bless America and all the heroes and heroines like Tom Burnett who gave their lives to save others on September 11.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RECOVERY AND RETURN OF LUDWIG KOONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HART). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to let my colleagues know of my introduction of a concurrent resolution in support of the United States Government becoming actively involved in the recovery and return of Ludwig Koons, a boy who was abducted to Italy by his mother.

Ludwig, son of Jeffrey Koons, an award-winning, internationally renowned artist, was abducted to Italy by his mother, Ilona Staller, on June 9, 1994. Mr. Koons has filed a petition against the Republic of Italy with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and a preliminary decision regarding the admissibility of this petition is expected to be issued by the court in October 2001. I have respectfully requested that both the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of State file briefs in the European Court of Human Rights supporting Mr. Koons' petition, pursuant to article 36 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights of the

Council of Europe, which states the United States has a right to intervene in proceedings before the European court in Strasbourg, promoted by its citizens seeking relief from human rights violations.

On May 29, 2001, Mrs. Staller was convicted in Italy for kidnapping their minor son, Ludwig, from his family residence in New York on June 9, 1994. In addition, with a judgment dated May 31, 2001, this year, Mrs. Staller was found guilty by the Rome Tribunal of repeated acts of defamation through the media against Mr. Koons. The delays of the Italian judicial authorities in finding Mrs. Staller guilty of international child kidnapping were instrumental in allowing the mother to retain custody of Ludwig in Italy illegitimately.

Authorities have not taken into consideration the judgment of divorce entered by the New York Supreme Court, which had exclusive jurisdiction to decide the parties' custody dispute. The decision of the Italian judicial authorities to prohibit Ludwig, a native American citizen, from exercising his right of access to the United States, even for temporary visits, in order to maintain meaningful relations with his father and his paternal family is in violation of international principles of law and treaties to the detriment of a U.S. minor.

My resolution states that the United States should request that the Italian Republic immediately return Ludwig Maximilian Koons to the custody of the father in the United States as established by the judgment of divorce in the Supreme Court of New York of December 9, 1994. Pending a final decision by the Republic of Italy regarding the permanent return of Ludwig to the United States, the United States should also request that Italy authorize Ludwig to visit his father in his New York residence on a temporary basis.

As an American citizen, Ludwig has a right to preserve his identity, his nationality, and his family relations and to be raised by the parent who can best assure him a sound and healthy environment.

OH SAY CAN WE SEE?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, lying aboard a British warship in Baltimore Harbor, Francis Scott Key listened through the night as shells rained down on Fort McHenry. The small, undermanned garrison suddenly found itself under the attack of the greatest Navy in the world. One thousand American soldiers were charged with the daunting task of defending Fort McHenry against 30 British warships and thousands of enemy ground

troops. The bombs fell for 25 straight hours. Many hit their target. Others burst overhead, raining shrapnel on the soldiers below. When the rocket explosions ceased on the morning of September 14, 1814, Key surely thought that Fort McHenry had been taken.

Straining to see through the smoke that hung over the water in the early morning light, Key wiped away tears to see the Stars and Stripes still flying defiantly over that battered fort. The Americans had achieved the unthinkable. They had bravely held their position against all odds. The magnificent sight moved Key to pen the words that have stirred American hearts ever since, the Star-Spangled Banner.

Two weeks ago, 187 years after the defense of Fort McHenry, our Nation stared in horror at the smoke hanging over New York City and Washington, D.C. We looked on in disbelief as the towers of the World Trade Center crumbled before our very eyes. Yet out of the destruction shone a beacon of hope. Wiping tears from our eyes, we watched modern heroes, New York's firefighters, raising the Stars and Stripes atop the mountain of rubble. The comparison to Iwo Jima is inescapable.

Madam Speaker, the attack on America was not an attempt to defeat our Army. It was an organized plan to destroy the lives of innocent Americans. It was a direct assault on the American spirit. The terrorists succeeded in killing thousands of our fellow citizens, but they can never kill the American spirit.

Napoleon once said, "The great soldiers run to the sound of the guns." Consider the heroism of the passengers aboard United Flight 93 who attacked their hijackers. They saved thousands of lives on the ground and perhaps the most precious symbols of our Nation. We will never forget the firefighters who gave their lives when they courageously rushed into the burning towers as others streamed out. Now we see the quiet heroism of rescue workers who continue to dig tirelessly through the rubble in hopes of finding just one survivor. These Americans stand on the shoulders of the defenders of Fort McHenry.

Throughout our history, many adversaries have underestimated the steely resolve of the American spirit. They underestimate us now. We have been called to action, to demonstrate the virtues that make this a great Nation. At a similar hour, Winston Churchill said, "Do not let us speak of darker days. Let us speak, rather, of sterner days. These are not dark days. These are great days, the greatest days our country has ever lived. We must all thank God that we have been allowed, each of us according to our stations, to play a part in making these days memorable in the history of our race."

Madam Speaker, as we declare war on terrorism around the world, the